

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims as amended in the Article 34 amendments in the International Application are presented herewith (claims 1-3).

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A valve-regulated lead-acid battery comprising: an electrode plate group; and

an electrolyte impregnated into and retained by said electrode plate group,

said electrode plate group comprising:

positive electrode plates that each include a positive electrode current collector comprising a Sn-containing lead alloy, and a positive electrode active material retained by said positive electrode current collector;

negative electrode plates that each include a negative electrode current collector comprising a lead alloy, and a negative electrode active material retained by said negative electrode current collector; and

separators,

wherein Sn content in said positive electrode current collector is 1.1 to 3.0 % by mass, and pore volume per unit mass of said negative electrode active material is 0.115 to 0.150 cm³/g, and

part of said electrolyte is a free electrolyte that is free from said electrode plate group, and said free electrolyte is in contact with said separators.

2. (Original) The valve-regulated lead-acid battery in accordance with claim 1, wherein the Sn content in said positive electrode current collector is 1.6 to 2.5 % by mass.

3. (Currently Amended) A valve-regulated lead-acid battery comprising a battery set, said battery set comprising a plurality of unit batteries that are connected in series, said unit batteries each comprising:

an electrode plate group; and

an electrolyte impregnated into and retained by said electrode plate group,

said electrode plate group comprising:

positive electrode plates that each include a positive electrode current collector comprising a Sn-containing lead alloy, and a positive electrode active material retained by said positive electrode current collector;

negative electrode plates that each include a negative electrode current collector comprising a lead alloy and a negative electrode active material retained by said negative electrode current collector; and

separators,

wherein Sn content in said positive electrode current collector is 1.1 to 3.0 % by mass, and pore volume per unit mass of said negative electrode active material is 0.115 to 0.150 cm³/g, and

part of said electrolyte is a free electrolyte that is free from said electrode plate group, and said free electrolyte is in contact with said separators.

~~The valve-regulated lead-acid battery in accordance with claim 1 or 2, wherein part of said electrolyte is a free electrolyte that is free from said electrode plate group, and said free electrolyte is in contact with said separators.~~